

## DC Corrections Information Council

### MEETING MINUTES FOR OPEN MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2016, 2901 14ST Street NW @ 5:00pm

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting is called to order at 5:15pm. As the first CIC Pop-up Think Tanks is scheduled immediately after the open meeting, the meeting is intended to be brief.

#### ROLL CALL

**CIC Board Members:** Phylisa Carter and Katharine Huffman. Third board position is still vacant. Quorum.

**CIC Staff:** Michelle Bonner, Executive Director; Program Analysts Tiffany Culley, Laura de las Casas, and Lashonia Thompson-El; Community Outreach Assistant Phillip Mosby; Administrative Assistant Sheila Walker.

#### INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

Laura de las Casas has been hired as the new legal Program Analyst. Laura was a legal fellow at the DC Prisoners Project in 2014-2015. She replaces Cara Compani, who was a Program Analyst from August 2012 to March 2016. Cara is now working for the Vera Institute for Justice.

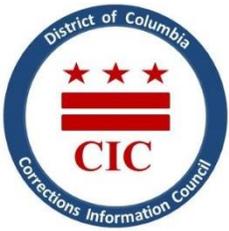
CIC is now at full capacity, with no vacancies, and all staffers are present for the open meeting.

#### UPDATE – CIC STRATEGIC PLANNING

The CIC held its second of two strategic planning sessions on April 8, 2016. Board members, staff, and community partner representative Chiquisha Robinson (Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia) participated in this planning session. The firm Symphonic Strategies is the consultant hired to facilitate the strategic planning and create a “road map” graphic of the strategic plan by May 2016.

#### REPORTS: PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

The inspection reports for FCI Petersburg Medium and Low are published as of today, April 26, 2016. The next report to be published this quarter is FCI Bennettsville. These reports are of inspections conducted prior to the beginning of this fiscal year, and are part of the reporting backlog that the agency is attempting to catch up on. None of the current staff were present during the times of these inspections.



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### **INSPECTIONS**

The CIC inspected FCI Hazelton on April 14, 2016; and they inspected FCI Allenwood Low on April 22, 2016. Reports for SFF Hazelton (women's facility) and USP Hazelton are part of the report backlog. The CIC sent inmate surveys to DC incarcerated persons at these two facilities in an attempt to report updated information. Program analysts Laura de las Casas and Lashonia Thompson-El plan to return to FCI Hazelton in May with an American Sign Language interpreter to speak with a deaf inmate.

Board Member Katharine Huffman shared with the group the CIC's inspection process: initial request to BOP to inspect a facility at least 30 days prior to proposed inspection date; receipt and review of documentation from BOP regarding the facility; onsite inspection; one-on-one interviews with DC inmates; and continued collection of information from all stakeholders and partners until final draft of the report. The report then goes to the BOP for 30 day period of review and response, and then CIC publishes final report and BOP response *in toto*.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

The CIC plans to have office hours at Free Minds Book Club on April 27, 2016, where the Community Outreach staff will endeavor to talk to members about their prison experiences. The CIC also plans to hold regular office hours at Mayor's Office of Returning Citizen Affairs, at 2100 Martin Luther King, Jr., Ave, SE.

### **OTHER**

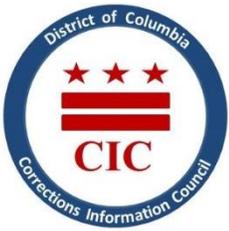
Attendees expressed the following:

One attendee spoke about her son being in DC's Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF) and that he was experiencing poor conditions. The CIC offered to speak to her one-on-one about what she and her son were experiencing to see if it could make her issues known to appropriate contacts.

Another attendee asked when CIC was planning to go back to USP Lewisburg, to which the CIC responded that it hoped to inspect the facility again later in the fiscal year.

### **NEXT CIC OPEN MEETING**

The next date was not set at this time. The CIC will send out a notice for the next meeting in the next fiscal quarter.



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### **ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN MEETING**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm, for the start of the CIC's first Pop-Up Think Tank.